***The Crucible* Act 1 Prose notes**

**Salem & Villagers** “The play is set in Salem, Massachusetts, 1692; the government is a theocracy—rule by \_\_\_\_\_\_ through religious officials. Hard \_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ consume the majority of a Salem resident’s time. Within the community, there are simmering disputes over \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Matters of boundaries and deeds are a source of constant, bitter disagreements.” – Spark Notes

* No play
* Didn’t celebrate \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Hard workers
* 2-man patrol went around town during \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to see who wasn’t there
* In each other’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_…something Arthur Miller thinks **John Proctor** would rebel against.
* Wilderness, where Indians lived…Indians couldn’t be \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. Puritans thought of the wilderness as the” Devil’s last preserve, his home \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_”
* “believed…that they held in their steady hands the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that would light the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. We have inherited this belief, and it has \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ us. It helped them with the discipline it gave them. They were a dedicated folk…and they had to be to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the life they had chosen or been born into in this country.”
* **Paradox:** we still live in the grip of this paradox…”for good purposes…the people of Salem developed a theocracy, a combine of state and religious power whose function was to keep the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ together, and to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ any kind of disunity that might open it to destruction by material or ideological enemies.” (basically the combination of church & state was meant to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the community, but in the case of the Salem witch trials, it’s what drove them \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.) “The time came in New England when the repressions of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ were heavier than seemed warranted by the dangers against which the order was organized. The witch-hunt was a perverse manifestation of the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ which set in among all classes when the balance began to turn toward greater individual freedom.”
* The witch hunt was an opportunity for everyone to express publicly his guilt and sins, under the cover of accusations against the victims. For example: (141)\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_
* Long-held \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ of neighbors could now be openly \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, and vengeance taken. \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_-lust which had been expressed before by constant bickering over boundaries and deeds, could now be elevated to the arena of morality; one could cry \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ against one’s neighbor and feel perfectly justified n the bargain (getting their land).

“**Reverend Parris** is a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, stern man suffering from \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_. He believes that the members of his congregation should not lift a finger during \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ services without his permission.”

* Mid-40s
* Little good said of him in history
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, no interest in \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Thomas Putnam**

* holds one of the play’s many simmering \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_; he is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_about many things.
* His \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_-in-law was a candidate for the Salem ministry, but a small \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ thwarted his relative’s aspirations.
* He tried to break his father’s \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ because it left a disproportionate amount to a step-brother.
* It is not surprising to find that so many \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ against people are in the handwriting of Thomas Putnam, or that his name is so often found as a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ **corroborating** the supernatural testimony, or that his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ led the crying-out at the most opportune times of the trials.

**John Proctor** –

* farmer in his mid-30s.
* Had a sharp and \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ way with hypocrites.
* He was the kind of man – powerful of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_, even-tempered, and not easily led – who cannot \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ support to partisans without drawing their deepest resentment (if a candidate asks for his support, and he refuses, that candidate will be really upset). In his presence, a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ feels his foolishness instantly.
* always singled out to have \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ told about him.
* A \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ against the moral fashion of the time and against his own vision of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ conduct. (at this point in the play, we don’t know that he is such a sinner)
* Respect and even \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_in Salem

**Rebecca & Francis Nurse**

* both sides had \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ for them
* Had 300 acres. A theory is that Francis \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ the land but later purchased it, thus raising his \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_…this caused people to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ him
* The Nurses were in the \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ that kept Putnam’s brother-in-law from taking office.
* They were part of a faction that wanted to \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ away from Salem and form a new \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.
* Edward and Jonathan Putnam signed the first complaint against Rebecca; Thomas’ daughter was the one who fell into a \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ at the hearing and pointed to Rebecca as her \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

**Reverend Hale**

* Almost 40, intellectual.
* \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ to have been called to Salem for the purpose of seeing if this is really witchcraft